

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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## KYODAN RELATED KINUGASA HOSPITAL BURNS-2/3 DESTROYED-16 DIE

Fire broke out in the obstetrics ward thru the faulty handling of a kerosene stove at 9 pm Wednesday, January 6. Fire quickly spread thru the old two story wooden structure destroying new X-ray machines, oxygen tents, incubators, and other expensive equipment. Only the operating room and its equipment were saved.

Sixteen people are known dead, eight of which were babies. At the time of the incident, city officials of Yokosuka, firemen, Christian pastors and help from the nearby Naval Base aided in preventing further tragedy. The patients were quickly moved to five nearby hospitals.

The 135 bed hospital had 115 adult patients and 38 children, with a staff of 120. The staff consisted of 14 resident physicians, 46 nurses and 50 administrative-maintenance personnel.

The Council of Cooperation immediately sent a check for \$1,388 to be used toward the \$5,000 needed in compensating the families of the bereaved. JCWS forwarded 5 barrels of clothing, 3 barrels of medicine, 10 cases of bread and 5 cases of powdered milk. The Naval Base also contributed some money and plans are underway for a base-wide campaign to help in rebuilding.







The Board of Directors took action on January 7 and decided to rebuild the hospital. The program is estimated at about \$ 60,000.

The tragedy received wide and radio coverage and brought out the discussion on one program of the dangers of similar type buildings that are quite widely used in welfare type work in Japan.

#### NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR JAPAN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Construction started on the new headquarters building of the Japan Baptist Convention, a member of the NCC, in April of last year. The basement first floor and part of the second floor are already completed. Future plans are to build two more floors. The cost is approximately 24 million yen.

The missionary headquarters of the Japan Baptist Mission and the Southern Baptist Mission will be located there also. The literature department will remain at the present location.

The new address is: 850, 2-chome, Nishi-Ogikubo, Shinjuku ku, Tokyo.

#### PRAYER LIFE MOVEMENT PUBLISHES MONTHLY 'PRAYER COMPANION'

As an outgrowth of the 'prayer group system' introduced by Dr. Thomas Carruth, Secretary of the World Wide Church Attendance Movement, when he accompanied Dr. E. Stanley Jones on his three-month evangelistic campaign last year, the NCC has organized a Prayer Life Movement Committee. Rev. Mr. Masanao Fujita is chairman and Rev. Mr. K. Tsukahara is secretary.

During Dr. Jones' stay, 6 ashrams were organized in various parts of Japan and 600 pastors and laymen learned the system of prayer groups from Dr. Carruth. Some churches have already organized them. They consist of groups of 4-5 which meet together at the same time for praying towards the same ends or with the same purpose.

The magazine 'Inori no Tomo' (Prayer Companion) was started in November and will be most helpful in method and also in learning what is going on in prayer circles in Japan and other parts of the world.

#### KYODAN BROADCASTING COMMITTEE PLANS EMPHASES

Meeting at a small hotel in the mountains not far from Hakone, Japan, January 11-12, the Broadcasting Committee of the United Church of Christ criticized the church's radio work of last year and made specific plans for format, budget, and follow-up for this year's work.

Under the chairman, Rev. Kunio Kato, the committee heard reports from Mr. Nakanishi, Director of Station Relations and Chief Engineer, of AVACO, that the change of format toward the end of 1959 had resulted in increased listening audience and mail response. Committee members then listened to several broadcasts of the program, "Friend of the Heart", on tape and commented favorably on the format and handling. "Friend of the Heart" is produced by AVACO, with the Kyodan providing scripts, speakers and purchasing the air time. It is heard each Sunday, 6:30 a.m. by approximately three quarters of a million persons in the Tokyo area. During the winter the signal of this most powerful private station in Japan at this time of day reaches throughout the islands. Mail is received from as far south as the island of Kyushu.







Recently the program was changed from a hymn and sermon format to a story-telling format. Each week the life story of a famous Christian has been presented, emphasis being upon the witness of that person's life and message. Narration has been by Mr. Toru Ohira, Kyodan layman, who is nationally known as the actor who plays the voice of superman on the popular radio and television series in Japan. This series has received wide acclaim from listeners, from the station and the station's monitor's, to evaluate the programming.

The committee decided to continue the present format through the first of April and to include besides famous Japanese Christians the stories of the lives of several great missionaries to Japan and one episode each on the lives of Albert Schweitzer and Abraham Lincoln.

The committee, feeling that followup should receive more emphasis decided to approximately double the budget allowed for this purpose, to ask Rev. Saeki of the Shinagawa Church to take the responsibility for reviewing the mail and writing personal answers to those who are troubled by specific problems, and to develop a seven-part correspondence course on the Bible to which correspondents might subscribe.

Present follow-up includes sending those who request it a small hymnbook, several leaflets on Christianity, an introduction to the nearest church, and Kyodan publications appropriate to the person's occupation, age and situation.

In addition, the committee decided that a notification should also be sent to the minister of the church to which the writer is introduced, so that the minister may welcome him by name or even call upon him if felt desirable.

Among the other projects discussed by the committee for the future was the possibility of setting up at AVACO a telephone counseling service to which troubled persons or those contemplating suicide might be directed. It was decided that the project is feasible and desirable financially, but that in terms of adequate and trained personnel it requires more study and preparation. An alternate suggestion was made that a tape recorded message of up to three minutes might be provided and the number to dial publicized by radio and newspaper.

#### ECUMENICITY 'AT WORK' IN NAGOYA DISASTER AREA

Not only was the demonstration of 'togetherness' shown in the whole program of rescue work and aid carried on in the Nagoya area, but in that of giving as 'Christians' as well. This was brought to a focus on December 8 when 7,500 futons (quilts) purchased with money given by Christians all over the world, were presented to the Governor in an ecumenical setting.

Forty trucks displaying a banner 'Presents from Christians' rolled up in front of the prefectural office for the afternoon presentation ceremony. There were also 120 church representatives composed of national church leaders and also diplomats, students and missionaries representing churches around the world.

The service opened with a prayer and scripture reading, followed by an explanation by Mr. Ken Buma of JCWS. Rev. Mr. Muto of NCC gave the main address; then representatives from various areas gave short speeches, after which Rev. Mr. Manabe, Chairman of JCWS gave the futon to the governor.







the ceremony closed with the governor's response and then some of the representatives went with the trucks to deliver the futon.

The total cost for the quilts was \$ 28,075, approximately \$4.00 a piece. Another 3,800 were distributed by JCWS thru the generosity of the Christian Reformed Church in the USA. Plans are to distribute even more.

This demonstration of brotherly concern was made possible thru the gifts of the following bodies: CWS, Lutheran World Service in New York; Christian Reformed Church in the USA, Presbyterian Church in the USA, Brethren Service Commission in the USA; Anglican Church of Canada, United Church of Canada; National Council of Churches in New Zealand, Council of Organizations for Relief Overseas, Inc. New Zealand; Australian Commission for Inter-Church Aid; Burma Christian Council, Thailand Christian Council, Malayan Christian Council, Indian Christian Council, Indonesia Christian Council; WCC-Geneva, Lutheran World Federation, Geneva, Mr. and Mrs. Hentsch, Geneva; British Council of Churches; Innere Mission and Helfswerk der Evangelischen Kirche, Germany, Church of Denmark; Mr. Mabbs, Lebanon; Directors of the Association of Evangelical Academy in Germany and local contributors.

At present the JCWS is busy filling the request orders of the 120 orphans in the typhoon disaster area. Most of them are living with relatives, but seeking to help them in their needs as well JCWS asked them to send in a list of things they need. Individual \$ 10.00 packets are being made up for each one.

As an outgrowth of the social concern of the churches, YMCA-YWCA and International Gideons a permanent social work to be called 'Nagoya Christian Social Center' is being started.

Land has been purchased and building is scheduled to begin in February. Plans are to develop a day care center and clinic first, expanding these facilities and adding group work, social guidance and psycho-therapy later. Day care facilities will begin with provision for 30 (including 10 babies) children and expanding to 60. The clinic will begin with one physician, pediatrician, 2 nurses and a TB X-ray technician, later a gynecologist will be added.

A gift of 5 million yen was received from Mr. Toyama of Nikko Securities and 10 million yen from the company. 6 million yen was also received from the International Women's Welfare Association. Hopes are to raise 5 million yen locally and 20 million overseas to finance the project, which has a budget of 40 million yen.



